

**BRYAN, MARVIN A., PAPERS**  
**1946-[1948-1974]-1977**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This finding aid covers the papers of Marvin A. Bryan from 1946 to 1977, although concentrated in the period 1948-1974. It also contains delegation packets from the 1974 Democratic conference in Kansas City. The materials are comprised of correspondence, minutes from meetings, speeches, invitations, programs, itineraries from conferences, cards and letters from various governors, biographies, and photographs.

These materials were donated to the State Library and Archives by Mrs. Marvin (Grace) Bryan of St. Joseph, Tennessee in September 1997. The collection measured 2 cubic feet and has been processed to 1.5 cubic feet. The materials arrived in no specific order or arrangement. The collection is arranged in the order of correspondence, official documents, meeting and conference materials, biographies, photographs, and articles from newspapers and magazines. The materials are then arranged chronologically under each heading. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies may be made for scholarly research.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Marvin A. Bryan was born on November 1, 1904 in Wayland Springs, Tennessee. After graduating from high school in St. Joseph, Tennessee, he worked several different jobs until he joined the navy in 1923. While in the Navy he attended Yeoman School and became a Yeoman 2nd Class. He served on the USS *Canopus* and the USS S-40 Submarine in the South Pacific. In 1927 he left the Navy and began work at the Third National Bank in Nashville. In 1930 his father died and he took over his position as manager of the American Bank in St. Joseph. He married Grace Morrow in 1930.

In 1940 and again in 1942, Bryan was elected to the State Senate. While there he served on the Banking Committee. When the legislative session ended in 1943, he served again in the Navy aboard the USS *Uvalde* in the South Pacific. In 1946 he returned to St. Joseph and resumed working at the American Bank. He also engaged in other small businesses. The State Legislature elected him to the State Board of Election Supervisors for a four year term in 1947. He became the president of the American Bank in 1953.

Bryan was appointed Superintendent of Banks of Tennessee in 1958 and worked under Governors Clement, Ellington, and Dunn. He became president of the National Association of Supervisors of State Banks for 1967-68. He held the position of Superintendent of Banks until 1972 when he resigned due to health problems.

Marvin A. Bryan was a member of the American Legion, the Masons, the Scottish Rites, the York Rites, the Order of the Eastern Star, the VFW, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, the Shriners, Woodmen of the World, and the Lions Club. He was also a Steward in the Methodist Church since 1930.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The papers in this collection mainly chronicle the career of Marvin A. Bryan during the years of 1948-1974. They focus on his various official roles on the State Board of Election Supervisors, the National Association of Supervisors of State Banks, and as the Superintendent of Banks in Tennessee. The materials are comprised of correspondence, minutes from meetings, speeches, invitations, programs, itineraries from conferences, cards and letters from various governors, biographies, magazine and newspaper articles, and photographs. They arrived in no specific order or arrangement. They were arranged in the following order: correspondence, official documents, meeting and conference materials, biographies, photographs, and articles from newspapers and magazines. The materials are then arranged chronologically under each heading.

The collection's papers begin with Marvin A. Bryan's appointment to the State Board of Election Supervisors from 1947-1950. The correspondence from this period mostly contains recommendations for appointments to county Election Commissions and letters of resignation from the Election Commissions. Box 1 Folder 6 contains a letter that charges three Lawrence County Commissioners of election tampering and demands their termination. The collection also contains Minutes from the Board's meetings and lists of appointments.

From 1958-1972 Bryan served as the Supervisor of Banks in Tennessee. Most of the letters in 1958 and 1966 are congratulatory from various banks across Tennessee. A sample of thank you letters written to banks and individuals in response to flowers sent for his appointments is in Box 1, Folder 10. He attended several meetings and conferences during his term and the collection has several itineraries and invitations as well as speeches he presented. There are several photographs of dinners and conferences from this period. He was elected the President of the National Association of Supervisors of State Banks for 1967-1968. There are documents and itineraries on the Association's 1968 Conference held in Hawaii, and Mr. and Mrs. Bryan's trip to Japan.

In 1974 he attended the Democratic Conference on Organization and Policy in Kansas City. There is a packet with itineraries, information about the Democratic Party, amendments to the Party's charter, and reports from the conference.

The collection contains information on Marvin A. Bryan in his official positions. The biographies and magazine articles cover his life up to 1972.

## **CONTAINER LIST**

### **BOX 1**

1. Correspondence-1947 Feb.-March--State Board of Election Supervisors
2. Correspondence-1947 April 1-April 29--State Board of Election Supervisors
3. Correspondence-1947 April 30-June--State Board of Election Supervisors
4. Correspondence-1948--State Board of Election Supervisors
5. Correspondence-1949--State Board of Election Supervisors
6. Correspondence-1950--State Board of Election Supervisors
7. Correspondence-1954-1957
8. Correspondence-1958-1965--Superintendent of Banks
9. Correspondence-1966--Superintendent of Banks
10. Correspondence-1958 & 1966--Sample Thank You Letters
11. Correspondence-1967-1968--NASSB
12. Correspondence-1974--Democratic Conference on Organization and Policy
13. Correspondence-1957-1977--Governors

### **BOX 2**

1. Speeches By Marvin A. Bryan
2. Speeches By Grace Bryan
3. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1946
4. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1947
5. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1948
6. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1949
7. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1950 Feb.-Sept.
8. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Minutes--1950 Oct.
9. State Board of Supervisors of Elections Appointments and Documents--1948-1950
10. Democratic Primary Results--1962
11. National Association of Supervisors of State Banks Newsletters and Documents-1967

### **BOX 3**

1. Meetings and Conferences--1958-1962
2. Meetings and Conferences--1966
3. Meetings and Conferences--1967 Jan.-May
4. Meetings and Conferences--1967 Sept.
5. Meetings and Conferences--1967 Oct.-Nov.
6. Conference in Hawaii and Trip to Japan-1967
7. Meetings and Conferences--1972
8. Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy--1974
9. Conference on Democratic Party Organization and Policy--1974
10. Biographies
11. Photographs

## 12. Magazine and Newspaper Articles